

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.-7. (Withdrawn)

8. (Previously Presented) A communication system for mobile and fixed service users, comprising:

at least four satellites in a medium earth orbit spaced in a first configuration to provide semi-global coverage;

a first ground terminal having a fixed one-dimensional antenna; and

a second ground terminal having a two-dimensional tracking antenna.

9. (Original) A communication system as recited in claim 8 wherein said at least four satellites are position-adjustable satellites that are spaced apart such that subsequently deployed satellites can be interleaved therebetween.

10. (Previously Presented) A communication system as recited in claim 8 wherein said first or second ground terminal provides tracking and communication control at a fixed site.

11. (Previously Presented) A communication system as recited in claim 8 wherein said first or second ground terminal provides network operational control for various communications.

12. (Previously Presented) A communication system as recited in claim 8 wherein said first or second ground terminal provides satellite position control at a fixed site.

13. (Previously Presented) A communication system as recited in claim 8 wherein said first or second ground terminal is coupled to a terrestrial communications link.

14. (Original) A communication system as recited in claim 13 wherein the terrestrial communications link is a phone line.

15. (Original) A communication system as recited in claim 13 wherein the terrestrial communications link is a cable/television line.

16. (Currently Amended) A communication system as recited in claim 9, further comprising a second plurality of satellites interleaved between said at least four satellites in the medium earth orbit to increase the elevation angle at the most populated elevations.

17. (Currently Amended) A communication system as recited in claim 9, further comprising at least one additional satellite deployed in ~~[[a]]~~ the medium earth orbit and positioned between two adjacent satellites of the at least four satellites.

18. (Currently Amended) A communication system as recited in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 8, further comprising additional satellites in an inclined medium earth orbit.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) A communication system as recited in claim 8, wherein said at least four satellites are in the equatorial plane.